

WORKSHOP

Advancing regenerative and climate-friendly tourism for sustainable transformation in the Hindu Kush Himalaya

Day 1 – Thursday, 30 October 2025

Time	Programme
09:00-09:30	Registration
09:30–10:30	Opening Session Host: Barsha Rani Gurung – Communications Officer, ICIMOD Welcome & inauguration Welcome video message – Izabella Koziell, Deputy Director General, ICIMOD Keynote speaker – Susanne Becken, Professor of Sustainable Tourism, Griffith University, Australia Remarks: • ANM Mastadud Dastagir – General Manager, Bangladesh Parjatan Corporation, Bangladesh • Sonam Gyaltshen – Chief Planning Officer, Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Employment, Bhutan • Indu Ghimire – Joint Secretary, Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation, Nepal • Laxmi Kumari Neupane – Under Secretary, Ministry of Forest and Environment, Nepal • Adnan Dogar - Chairperson, Department of Tourism and Hospitality Management, Kohsar University Murree (Punjab), Pakistan. • Supawadee Photiyarach – Senior Specialist, Thailand Science, Research and Innovation, Thailand Closing: Barsha Rani Gurung, ICIMOD
10:30 – 11:00	Tea break and group photo
11:00–13:00	Session 1: Policy pathways to regenerative and climate-friendly tourism (Policy Dialogue Panel) Session host: Anu Kumari Lama - Tourism Specialist, ICIMOD Focus: Explore “state of know-how and policy direction” at regional, national, and local levels through meaningful dialogue that generates knowledge and help inform strategic approaches taken by respective government to promote regenerative and climate friendly tourism in the HKH region.

	Panellists: • Sonam Gyaltsen – Chief Planning Officer, Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Employment, Bhutan • Indu Ghimire – Joint Secretary, Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation, Nepal • Laxmi Kumari Neupane – Under Secretary, Ministry of Forest and Environment, Nepal • ANM Mastadud Dastagir – General Manager, Bangladesh Parjatan Corporation, Bangladesh.
13:00-14:00	Lunch
14:00 – 16:00	Session 2: Innovating regenerative and climate friendly tourism in the HKH region - Industry practices driving change <i>(Panel Discussion)</i> Session Host: Deepak Raj Joshi – CEO, Nepal Tourism Board Focus: Sharing innovative approaches and best practices on co-developing regenerative and climate friendly tourism destinations, business and services with the focus on community empowerment, ecosystem restoration, circular economy practices and climate actions (mitigation and adaptation). Panellists: • Rinzin Jamtsho – Chief Tourism Officer, Department of Tourism, Bhutan • Rigzin W Lachic – Founder, Dolkhar Resort, Leh, India • Vivek Pyakuryal – Founder/CEO at Nana Resort Dhampus, Nepal • Aftab UR Rehman Rana – Managing Director, Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation, Pakistan • Parichat Suntararak - Vice President, Thai Ecotourism and Adventure Travel Association, Thailand (10 min presentation followed by Q&A)
16:00 – 16:30	<i>Summary of Day 1 – Barsha Rani Gurung</i>
17:30 – 19:30	Reception Dinner

Day 2 – Friday, 31 October 2025

9:00-09:30	Recap of Day 1
09:30-11:30	Session 3: Research and academic pathways to regenerative and climate-friendly tourism <i>(Presentations)</i> Session Host: John Hummel – Director of Applied Research and Innovation, Global Academy of Tourism and Hospitality Education (GATE), Kathmandu.

	Focus: Sharing of knowledge and tools to co-develop and implement strategies that promote research and development cooperation on regenerative and climate friendly tourism among research/academic institutions, destination planner/manager and industry. Panellists: • Anu Kumari Lama – Tourism Specialist, ICIMOD • Roshis Shrestha - Assistant Professor, The Hongkong Polytechnic University, PRC. • Tshering Choki – Director, Athang Training Academy, Bhutan • Nischal Oli – Crafts and Heritage Expert, Story Cycle, Nepal • Adnan Dogar - Chairperson, Department of Tourism and Hospitality Management, Kohsar University Murree (Punjab), Pakistan. • Sangita Ojha – Executive Director, Nepal Academy of Tourism and Hospitality Management, Nepal. <i>(10 minutes presentation followed by Q & A)</i>
11:30-12:00	Tea Break
12:00-13:30	Session 4: Strengthening regional network and collaboration Session host – Barsha Rani Gurung, Communications Officer, ICIMOD Focus: Exploring opportunities to identify and create collaborative platforms for stakeholders to share knowledge, research, and best practices, develop joint policies, and promote and market regenerative and climate friendly tourism practices, contributing to strengthening regional network and collaboration. Working groups: • Policy – Enabling frameworks, mechanism and actions for regional cooperation - Anu K Lama • Research & Development (R&D) – Transforming mindset, practice and system for regenerative and climate friendly tourism – Roshis Shrestha • Regenerative and climate friendly tourism development – Transitioning destinations, businesses, and services toward greener, more inclusive, and climate-resilient models of tourism – John Hummel
13:30- 14:30	Lunch
14:30-15:30	Closing Session • Summary of the workshop – Ms. Barsha Rani Gurung, ICIMOD • Remarks – ANM Mastadud Dastagir, General Manager, Bangladesh Parjatan Corporation, Bangladesh • Remarks - Sonam Gyaltshen, Chief Planning Officer, Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Employment, Bhutan • Remarks – Indu Ghimire, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation, Nepal

	• Remarks – Habib Ullah Arif, Director General, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Culture and Tourism Authority, Pakistan. • Way forward and closing remarks – Anu Kumari Lama, ICIMOD
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